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13 April 1959

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

II. ASIA-AFRICA

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UAR-USSR: [Nasir has decided that UAR Ambassador Kuni who was called home from Moscow for consultation in early April, will remain in Cairo for the time being, in view of Soviet Ambassador Kissilev's extended absence from Cairo. Meanwhile, UAR]

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propaganda has alleged that a second Soviet shipload of "Russian" Kurds is en route to Iraq in order to carry out a coup in connivance with Iraqi Communists. Moscow on 11 April admitted that some 850 Iraqi Kurdish refugees were being repatriated, but it denied they had been trained in the USSR for guerrilla warfare. Moscow blamed Western press agencies, rather than Cairo, for such stories.

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no Iraqi oil: The Iraqi director of petroleum affairs has told the US Embassy that no new oil concessions will be granted, and that Iraq will henceforth explore and develop its oil resources using foreign contract technicians. He said that Iraq will employ Soviet oil technicians on this basis in the Khanaqin area--some 85 miles northeast of Baghdad near the Iranian border--where they are already at work, and in the offshore Persian Gulf.

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13 Apr 59

DAILY BRIEF

ii

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South Vietnam - Cambodia: [South Vietnamese President Diem intends shortly to launch an "all-out" press and radio campaign to expose the "Communist takeover" in Cambodia under Cambodian Premier Sihanouk. Diem attributes a worsening security situation in Vietnam in recent months to intensified activity by Cambodian-based Communist and other hostile elements who have the "blessing" of the Sihanouk government. Such a propaganda campaign would only serve to encourage Sihanouk to move closer to Peiping.]

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OK Nicaragua: Exiled opponents of Nicaraguan President Somoza continue to organize for a revolutionary invasion of that country. Most Nicaraguan revolutionary groups, in Cuba and elsewhere, now have endorsed as their leader and future provisional president Enrique Lacayo, who indicates he will seek to prevent Communist infiltration of the movement. The exiles do not, however, appear prepared for action in the immediate future. [REDACTED]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Continuing Strains in UAR-USSR Relations

Nasir has decided that UAR Ambassador Kuni, who left Moscow for consultations in Cairo in early April, will not return to his post for the time being, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] This move is in response to the extended absence from Cairo of Soviet Ambassador Kissilev, who returned to Moscow in February. Nasir believes that Kissilev had planned to return to Cairo in order to smooth over current UAR-Soviet friction, but that Nasir's 30 March speech--a strong criticism of the USSR for interference in Arab affairs--in the presence of Soviet military instructors was responsible for changing Soviet plans for Kissilev's return.

The UAR has continued its propaganda charges regarding the repatriation of Kurdish refugees from the USSR to Iraq. Cairo broadcasts on 11 April claimed that a second shipload of armed "Russian" Kurds is en route to Iraq and that Iraqi Communists, in connivance with the repatriated Kurds, are preparing to carry out a coup in Baghdad. A TASS statement on 11 April, denying that the 850 Kurds who previously returned to Iraq aboard the Gruzia are armed and trained for guerrilla warfare, accused Western press agencies with originating such reports, thus sidestepping the issue of UAR author-ship.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

South Vietnam Plans to Open Anti-Sihanouk Campaign

[REDACTED] South Vietnamese President Diem has told American officials that he is determined to launch an "all-out" press and radio campaign exposing the "Communist takeover" in Cambodia under Premier Sihanouk. This campaign, which Diem insists will remain objective, is to have the double purpose of informing the Cambodian masses of the "real" situation in their country, and of confronting the Vietnamese people with the danger they face.]

[REDACTED] Diem attributes a worsening security situation in South Vietnam to increased activity by Cambodian-based Communist and other hostile elements who have the "blessing" of the Sihanouk government. He points to a sharp rise during the past three months in Communist-inspired terrorism in the provinces, highlighted by the assassination of 97 persons--most of them local officials. There have been independent reports that the Cambodian Government is encouraging anti-Diem activities by Vietnamese dissident sect forces in Cambodia.]

[REDACTED] Diem's projected propaganda campaign probably would serve only to rally additional Cambodian popular support for Sihanouk, and it might encourage him to seek even closer relations with the Sino-Soviet bloc on the grounds that the "Saigon-Bangkok plot" to overthrow him remains a threat. Disaffected Cambodian elements led by former Royal Councilor Sam Sary and ex-Premier Son Ngoc Thanh are already engaged in psychological warfare efforts against Sihanouk, [REDACTED]

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13 Apr 59

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

Page 7

25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2002/09/04 : CIA-RDP79T00975A004400260001-4

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III. THE WEST

Nicaraguan Exiles Planning Revolution

Nicaraguan revolutionary leader Enrique Lacayo was endorsed as the future provisional president of Nicaragua at a 6 April meeting in Havana of some 30 Nicaraguan exiles and seven Cuban sympathizers. Lacayo, who escaped from Nicaragua early last month after spending over two years in jail for alleged complicity in the 1956 assassination of Nicaraguan strongman Somoza, by late March had been selected by opposition factions inside Nicaragua and in exile in Costa Rica as their joint leader.

Lacayo's endorsement by those represented at the Havana meeting, which included the leader of an alleged 200 Nicaraguan exiles in the New York City area, strengthens his claim to leadership. It is not known whether he sought or received the backing of the pro-Communist Nicaraguan groups that have been sympathetically received by Cuban authorities, but prior to his departure for Cuba he indicated to the US ambassador in Costa Rica that he was determined to prevent Communist penetration of the Nicaraguan revolutionary movement. Lacayo is believed to look to former Costa Rican President Figueres as his revolutionary mentor, and Figueres is known to be strongly opposed to dealing with the Communists in revolutionary planning.

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It appears unlikely that a concerted revolutionary invasion can be launched before the start of the rainy season, which will come in about a month and would make military operations exceedingly difficult in the swampy Nicaraguan coastal area. The exile groups are still subject to strong rivalries, however, and the possibility of a premature attempt by one faction trying to beat the others to the draw cannot be eliminated.

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